

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 11680

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, ENRG, TPHY, UR, US
SUBJECT: ALEKSANDROV CLAIMS 25 PERCENT EFFICIENCY FOR SOLAR
ENERGY CONVERSION AT PRESS CONFERENCE

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. DURING OTHERWISE UNREMARKABLE PRESS CONFERENCE
JULY 16, PRESIDENT OF USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ALEKSANDROV MADE
FOLLOWING STATEMENTS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST:

A. SCIENTISTS IN LENINGRAD HAVE DEMONSTRATED A PHOTOELECTRIC ENERGY
CONVERSION EFFICIENCY OF 25 PERCENT, WHICH HE COMPARED TO THE
30 PERCENT EFFICIENCY OBTAINED FROM MORE MATURE NUCLEAR FISSION
PROCESSES.

B. FIRST PILOT INSTALLATION FOR PRODUCTION OF POWER BY
NUCLEAR FUSION MAY BE CONSTRUCTED IN 10 TO 15 YEARS, BUT COMMERCIAL
INSTALLATIONS ARE NOT TO BE EXPECTED BEFORE THE 21ST CENTURY.

C. BRIEF MENTION WAS MADE OF US-USSR JOINT WORK IN
CHEMICAL CATALYSIS, MOLDECULAR BIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION, THEORETICAL PHYSICS, EARTHQUAKE STUDIES, FUSION, SOLAR
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ENERGY, AND OTHERS.

D. ALEKSANDROV ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT RECENT CALIFORNIA REFERENDUM HAD REJECTED CURBS ON DEVELOPMENT OF REACTOR TECHNOLOGY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: WE ARE INTRIGUED BY ALEKSANDROV'S CLAIM OF A 25 PERCENT PHOTOELECTRIC ENERGY CONVERSION EFFICIENCY, AND WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION REGARDING IT. AS BACKGROUND AND FOR USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET SCIENTISTS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT OR ERDA SUPPLYING LATEST U.S. FIGURES FOR CONVERSION YIELDS FOR SOLAR ENERGY.

3. WE ARE SURPRISED ABOUT ALEKSANDROV REFERENCE TO LENINGRAD SINCE ACADEMY'S IOFFE INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL PHYSICS, WHERE BASIC WORK ON SEMICONDUCTOR HETEROJUNCTIONS IS BEING CARRIED OUT, INFORMED US IN JANUARY THAT THEY ARE NOT WORKING ON SOLAR ENERGY APPLICATIONS. SAME INFORMATION WAS GIVEN LAST MONTH TO SCICOUNS OF FRG EMBASSY.

4. IF SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH IS BEING CURRENTLY CARRIED OUT AT LENINGRAD RESEARCH LABORATORY OTHER THAN IOFFE INSTITUTE, SUCH LABORATORY SHOULD PROBABLY BE INCLUDED ON ITINEARY OF FORTHCOMING VISIT OF U.S. DEL IN FIELD OF PHOTOELECTRIC SOLAR ENERGY CONVERSION (MOSCOW 9234). END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
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